

## From the Editor

### New Format for QRV?, New Directions in Training

You may have noticed that QRV? has a slightly different look. Instead of coming to you on folded double size paper, it is now on separate, three hole punched pages. Perhaps you've also noticed a change on the line under QRV? at the top of this page. It used to say "The Newsletter of the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service." It now says "Training and News for the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service."

Why the change? Newsletters are intended to report news. While QRV? will continue to report news, it will also be used to help deliver an ACS manual or what I like to call a "Ready Book" directly to you. The name Ready Book appeals to me because it combines the idea of a traditional manual that answers "how" questions with additional resources to answer "why," "where," and "when" questions. Its intent will be to help keep you ready to assume your ACS communication post.

You will receive pages to put into your Ready Book in this and future issues of QRV?. We'll also distribute pages at meetings, and possibly in separate mailings. Pages for the Ready Book will be printed in a larger typeface than the news pages of QRV?. We'll do this to make reading easier in situations where the lighting conditions may be poor.

The pages you receive will be organized into five categories: Equipment Operation/Station Deployment, Tactical Communication, Psychology, Organization, and Personal Preparedness. We suggest you use a three ring binder and dividers.

What we have in mind are dividers that have plastic tabs for inserting labels. Once you have binder and dividers, you can create your Ready Book. Keep it together with the radios and supplies you've set aside to pick up when you go to your ACS station.

In this issue, we've included two pages to get you started. The first, for the Personal Preparedness section, contains the first in a series of articles by Ray Stommel/N7QAK, plus an excellent rationale for preparedness written by Jim Mullen, Director of Seattle Emergency Management. Put this page in the Personal Preparedness section of your Ready Book. The second page contains an article by John Angell/KB7LYD illustrating his essential equipment, materials, and method of station deployment and a "Top Ten" equipment operation self test. Put this page in the Equipment Operation/Station Deployment section of your Ready Book.

We intend to use QRV? to deliver training and news, just as our masthead says. We all want to be "QRV," prepared, and ready to serve in our potentially critically important communication posts. We hope this new format and function of QRV? will help us all be better prepared.

#### Our Training Curriculum

As most of you know, we're developing a training curriculum for the eleven radio communications positions we've identified for our Auxiliary Communication Service. Because most of us will

serve as "Community Center Radio Operators," we've started with this position in developing a specific training program. We'd like to take this opportunity to go over the topics in the program and the manner in which training will be delivered to you.

#### Five Areas for Training

1. *Personal Preparedness for Home.* Content: Preparing the home, provisioning the home, family safety and first aid.
2. *Organizational Structure of Emergency Management including primary and secondary communication paths.* Content: Organization and functions of city and county government emergency management; Organization and functions of other emergency providers (Red Cross, others); Organization and functions of auxiliary communications organizations (ACS, RACES, ARES, Medical Services, other). Routing of emergency messages.
3. *Equipment Operation & Station Deployment.* Content: Basic transceiver operation, station location and set up, antenna placement, essential equipment.
4. *Tactical Communication.* Content: Net protocols message handling (receiving, recording, dispatching), assigning message priority.
5. *Psychology.* Content: Anger, conflict, stress management and control.

See Editor, page 4

## QRV?

QRV? = "Are you prepared?"

*QRV? is the Newsletter of the Seattle  
Auxiliary Communication Service*

City of Seattle  
Division of Emergency  
Management

### ACS Net

Mondays 7:00 p.m.  
146.96 MHz

443.00 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)  
443.00 is monitored most of the day  
and evening by ACS personnel

### ACS Website

[http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/  
seattle/engr/home.htm](http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/engr/home.htm)

### State & County Nets

Washington State Emergency  
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.  
Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.  
3.987 MHz

King County ARES  
Sundays at 8:00 p.m.  
145.330 MHz

Please direct inquiries about the  
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## Mark's Message

By Mark Sheppard N7LYE

**Spring, new growth** - Seattle ACS is growing in so many ways. Our repeater system is moving toward stability, affording us good coverage of the up and down geography of our City, from west, east and north. The first phase of our digital radio network is in place with the installation of the UHF packet digipeater a-top the Space Needle. We are bringing up a 6 meter repeater and remote 2 meter simplex base stations. All these systems and hardware certainly are important, but are second to the our most essential asset - the dedicated ACS team members who continually demonstrate their commitment, preparedness and service to community. Over the past year our team has grown to form a critical mass of dedicated folks stepping forward to take on leadership, plan and execute drills, control nets, participate in community education, and vol-

unteer their time to help prepare our community for survival should a disaster strike.

We have truly come along way, and we have more to accomplish. This year we will implement our comprehensive ACS training and certification program, including a weekend long Emergency Preparedness Academy this Fall. We will work with the SDART program to develop SDART Blocks and recruit ACS members to staff community center communications posts in the central and south sections of the City. We will participate in a regional Earthquake drill this September and a pre-drill in June. This promises to be perhaps the most thorough and stressful test of our capabilities to date. Seattle ACS has formed as a "club" and has applied for a club license and call sign. In this spirit, we want to deploy ourselves as a field communications team this June to participate in ARRL Field Day 1998. I am trying to get us located on top of the hill at Discovery Park.

**Disaster Saturday** - Thanks to all who participated in Disaster Saturday on April 4th. This was a super event put on by the EOC and was great opportunity to educate citizen in the basics of emergency preparedness and generally heighten awareness. Our ACS team was able to meet and interact with our counterparts in SDART and better understand our respective roles, responsibilities and interdependencies. We set up a voice and packet station in a gym and ran all equipment, including the TNC and computer on battery power. Worst of all cases our an-



*Photo by Peter Smith*

John Angell KB7LYD answers questions about packet radio at the "Disaster Saturday" event.

See **Message**,  
Page 4

## Personal Profile: Pete Smith N7BYP

Well, I guess it's about time that your editor be the subject for a "personal profile." I'll begin by saying that like most of us, I've been interested in radios all my life. I can remember playing with radios, hanging wire antennas, and listening late into the evening for those rare dx faraway stations. In those days, I was an avid broadcast and shortwave listener (SWL), always trying for that elusive exotic station far away. In high school, I spent hours poring over the Allied Radio and Lafayette radio catalogs looking at transmitter and receiver kits. Remember the "Star Roamer," or the "Ocean Hopper?" I do and can still get excited about the thought of building one.

Although I was interested in radio and electronics in my childhood and youth, I didn't get my ham ticket. I was more an SWL and ham "wanna-be." After I married and started my family, I bought a used National NC57 for casual listening.



*Photo by Mardell Smith*

### Pete Smith N7BYP

Later I graduated to a Hammarlund HQ100, a general coverage receiver that even included an electric clock! Over the years I listened to the radios, maintained

an SWL log, and continued to collect qsl cards.

When my son, Mike, was in junior high school, he joined a radio club and received his novice ticket as KA7HAK. I can still remember one warm summer evening when Mike and I brought home a used Yaesu FT100DX and hooked it up to a vertical. At that time I didn't have my license and eagerly watched as Mike tapped out the familiar CQ. When he finished, we heard, through the hiss and crackle of static, a station answering him. I excitedly ran outside and looked up at our antenna, excited that we were able to establish contact with someone else in such a magic way!

It wasn't long before I had my own ticket. Actually, Mike was my elmer and helped me learn enough code and theory to take the amateur radio test. I still remember taking the exam at the FCC offices downtown and the great feeling of relief when I managed somehow to pass and get my Technician license as N7BYP. Over the next several months, Mike and I had great times operating that reliable old FT100DX. This was during the early 80's and band conditions were outstanding.

After a few months of hf cw operat-

vided many a radio adventure until the computer bug bit me - and bit me hard! My radios became dusty and unused and as my computer equipment crowded the ham equipment off the table, it was eventually sold.

About three years ago I got interested in radio once again. My interests now include old radios (boatanchors), too. As before, I operate mostly hf cw and a bit of VHF/UHF fm, this mostly ACS activity. My radio table now is graced by Yaesu twins (FL and FR 101) with the accompanying speaker and monitor scope. For portable hf and as an alternative to the Yaesu twins, I use a Kenwood TS 50s 10 - 80 meter all mode rig. To satisfy boatanchor-style general coverage listening, I have a 1946 Hallicrafters S 38 and a 50's vintage Hammarlund HQ-140-XA. Both radios are in fine cosmetic and electrical condition and provide great listening. My VHF/UHF standby is a Yaesu FT530 dual band handheld. Antennas consist of a Cushcraft VHF/UHF vertical mounted on my roof and a GAP Challenger ground mounted vertical in the back yard. I recently bought a "Carolina Windom" wire antenna and hope to have it operational soon.

My association in ACS began with an invitation from Gene Underwood W7AKA and LuAn Johnson to serve with SDART teams. Shortly after that, I met Mark Sheppard N7LYE and became involved in the formation of ACS. In addition to ACS, I'm also a member of ARRL, and FISTS (a group of cw enthusiasts). When not on the radio I enjoy grandchildren, camping, and photography. And speaking of photography, I'm especially interested in the new computer based "digital photography." After years in the darkroom, I'm thrilled by the ease of creating and manipulating images on computers.

My XYL, Mardell, and I have five future hams (grandchildren) under three years of age, with the sixth due in October. My favorite Seattle spots are my own Queen Anne neighborhoods. I often take my dog Toby on early morning walks and enjoy seeing the neighborhoods and city start the new day. The views out over Elliott Bay and Magnolia are absolutely magnificent.

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**Message**, from page 2

tenna was located inside and hung from a basketball hoop. It worked well and prove we can do radio anywhere any time. LuAn Johnson and here team did a fantastic job in planning and hosting this event.

**Passing of Stan Harter** - I regret to report the passing of Stan Harter, KH6GBX. Stan was the father of ACS and an inspiration to me and many others across the Country who have met him, and have implemented many of his ideas. Stan's good ideas and enthusiasm helped to seed the growth of amateur radio communications as an essential element of emergency preparedness and response here and in many other communities. I had the opportunity to hear Stan speak three years ago when Ron Kruml and Robert Snyder of Redmond Emergency Management invited him to discuss the concepts of ACS with area hams and emergency managers. I was new to emergency communications, carried no baggage and was impressed with what Stan had to say. The formation of Seattle ACS had a lot to do with Stan Harter. Thank you Stan, 73's CL. ■■■■■

QRV? - Seattle ACS  
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**Editor**, from page 1

## Delivering Training

Training will be provided through:

1. *QRV?*: Our newsletter provides be a direct, efficient way of getting training information into your hands. We will use it to deliver ongoing, updated material.
2. ACS Meetings: We meet four times each year. A portion of our meeting time will be devoted to training through workshops, presentations, discussions, demonstrations, and simulations.
3. Field Exercises: The field-based training exercises we've held have been beneficial for all. We'll continue to schedule field exercises for practice under realistic conditions.
4. Workshops: Other radio communications organizations hold workshops covering content that corresponds to our curriculum. Two examples are the workshops held by the Medical Services team and the Seattle Disaster and Relief Teams (SDART) throughout the

year. These are open to us and will be used to help deliver training to you.

5. Weekly ACS net: An excellent opportunity to practice net control skills. Net control should be assigned on a rotating basis to allow practice for many.
6. ACS Academy: An extended one, two, or three day program covering many areas of training will help us develop a highly effective and well trained group of communicators.
7. Distance Learning: Distance learning can take many forms including video, audio tapes, printed material, and can be delivered via regular mail or the Internet. If the Internet is used, opportunities for interaction among those taking training classes is possible making instruction even more effective.

## What's Ahead?

The first job is to refine and implement training for Community Center Operators. That's where you come in. We need your feedback on the content, delivery, and timing of training. Please let us know what you think. Offer suggestions, suggest changes, etc. ■■■■■